

I. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows by rewriting the claims with the following version of the claims in accordance with revised 37 CFR § 1.121.

1. (Amended) A method for searching for information within a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:

5 obtaining a list of one or more keywords from a search query entered by a user of a first peer node;

sending a rating request message comprising the list of one more keywords to a server;

10 receiving a rating response message comprising a list of node identifiers from the server, wherein each listed node identifier identifies a node within a peer-to-peer network from which a file has previously been retrieved in response to a peer-to-peer search that used a keyword in the list of one or more keywords; and

15 initiating a peer-to-peer search from the first peer node by sending a search query message to a plurality of peer nodes, wherein the search query message comprises the search query, and wherein the plurality of peer nodes includes at least one peer node identified in the list of node identifiers from the server.

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2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving from a second peer node a search result message for the peer-to-peer search comprising a node identifier for the second peer node; and

25 retrieving from the second peer node a file identified by the search result message.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising:  
capturing a node identifier for the second peer node from  
which the file was retrieved; and  
storing at the first peer node the node identifier in  
5 association with the list of one or more keywords.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:  
generating client rating information at the first peer  
node, wherein the client rating information comprises data  
10 relating one or more keywords and one or more captured node  
identifiers; and  
sending the client rating information to the server.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the client  
15 rating information comprises data relating file usage  
statistics for the retrieved file and one or more captured  
node identifiers.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:  
20 capturing file usage statistics for the retrieved file;  
and  
storing at the first peer node the file usage statistics  
in association with the list of one or more keywords.

25 7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
registering the first peer node with the server.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
receiving a rating module from the server; and  
installing the rating module on first peer node.

5 9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the rating  
module is installed as part of a process of registering the  
first peer node with the server.

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10. (Amended) A method for facilitating a search for information within a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:

5 receiving at a server a rating request message comprising a list of one or more keywords from a peer node;

searching a rating database for matching keywords;

retrieving a list of one or more node identifiers for peer nodes in a peer-to-peer network that are associated with the matching keywords; and

10 sending to the peer node a rating response message comprising the list of node identifiers, wherein each listed node identifier identifies a node within a peer-to-peer network from which a file has previously been retrieved in response to a peer-to-peer search that used a keyword in the list of one or more keywords.

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11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:

receiving client rating information from the peer node; and

20 indexing the client rating information from the peer node with client rating information from additional peer nodes into the rating database.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:

25 initiating a financial transaction for a user or an owner of the peer node in response to accepting a request to access the rating database.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:  
registering the peer node at the server.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:  
5 downloading a rating module to the peer node.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:  
identifying the registered peer node as a subscribing  
10 peer node, wherein a subscribing peer node receives access to  
the rating database for a periodic fee.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:  
identifying the registered peer node as a rating peer  
15 node, wherein a rating peer node is allowed to submit client  
rating information to the server.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising:  
providing the rating peer node with access to the rating  
20 database for no fee.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising:  
providing the rating peer node with access to the rating  
database for a predetermined fee.

19. (Amended) An apparatus for searching for information within a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

5 obtaining means for obtaining a list of one or more keywords from a search query entered by a user of a first peer node;

first sending means for sending a rating request message comprising the list of one or more keywords to a server;

10 first receiving means for receiving a rating response message comprising a list of node identifiers from the server, wherein each listed node identifier identifies a node within a peer-to-peer network from which a file has previously been retrieved in response to a peer-to-peer search that used a keyword in the list of one or more keywords; and

15 initiating means for initiating a peer-to-peer search from the first peer node by sending a search query message to a plurality of peer nodes, wherein the search query message comprises the search query, and wherein the plurality of peer nodes includes at least one peer node identified in the list 20 of node identifiers from the server.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:

25 second receiving means for receiving from a second peer node a search result message for the peer-to-peer search comprising a node identifier for the second peer node; and

retrieving means for retrieving from the second peer node a file identified by the search result message.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:

first capturing means for capturing a node identifier for the second peer node from which the file was retrieved; and

5 first storing means for storing at the first peer node the node identifier in association with the list of one or more keywords.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 further 10 comprising:

generating means for generating client rating information at the first peer node, wherein the client rating information comprises data relating one or more keywords and one or more captured node identifiers; and

15 second sending means for sending the client rating information to the server.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the client rating information comprises data relating file usage 20 statistics for the retrieved file and one or more captured node identifiers.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

25 second capturing means for capturing file usage statistics for the retrieved file; and

second storing means for storing at the first peer node the file usage statistics in association with the list of one or more keywords.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:

registering means for registering the first peer node  
5 with the server.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:

third receiving means for receiving a rating module from  
10 the server; and

installing means for installing the rating module on  
first peer node.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the  
15 rating module is installed as part of a process of registering  
the first peer node with the server.

28. (Amended) An apparatus for facilitating a search for information within a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

5 first receiving means for receiving at a server a rating request message comprising a list of one more keywords from a peer node;

searching means for searching a rating database for matching keywords;

10 retrieving means for retrieving a list of one or more node identifiers for peer nodes in a peer-to-peer network that are associated with the matching keywords; and

15 sending means for sending to the peer node a rating response message comprising the list of node identifiers, wherein each listed node identifier identifies a node within a peer-to-peer network from which a file has previously been retrieved in response to a peer-to-peer search that used a keyword in the list of one or more keywords.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 further 20 comprising:

second receiving means for receiving client rating information from the peer node; and

25 indexing means for indexing the client rating information from the peer node with client rating information from additional peer nodes into the rating database.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising:

initiating means for initiating a financial transaction for a user or an owner of the peer node in response to  
5 accepting a request to access the rating database.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising:

registering means for registering the peer node at the  
10 server.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 further comprising:

downloading means for downloading a rating module to the  
15 peer node.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 further comprising:

first identifying means for identifying the registered  
20 peer node as a subscribing peer node, wherein a subscribing peer node receives access to the rating database for a periodic fee.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 further  
25 comprising:

second identifying means for identifying the registered peer node as a rating peer node, wherein a rating peer node is allowed to submit client rating information to the server.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 further comprising:

first providing means for providing the rating peer node with access to the rating database for no fee.

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36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 further comprising:

second providing means for providing the rating peer node with access to the rating database for a predetermined fee.

37. (Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use within a distributed data processing system for searching for information, the computer program product comprising:

5       instructions for obtaining a list of one or more keywords from a search query entered by a user of a first peer node;

      instructions for sending a rating request message comprising the list of one or more keywords to a server;

      instructions for receiving a rating response message

10      comprising a list of node identifiers from the server, wherein each listed node identifier identifies a node within a peer-to-peer network from which a file has previously been retrieved in response to a peer-to-peer search that used a keyword in the list of one or more keywords; and

15      instructions for initiating a peer-to-peer search from the first peer node by sending a search query message to a plurality of peer nodes, wherein the search query message comprises the search query, and wherein the plurality of peer nodes includes at least one peer node identified in the list

20      of node identifiers from the server.

38. (Original) The computer program product of claim 37 further comprising:

25      instructions for receiving from a second peer node a search result message for the peer-to-peer search comprising a node identifier for the second peer node; and

      instructions for retrieving from the second peer node a file identified by the search result message.

39. (Original) The computer program product of claim 38 further comprising:

instructions for capturing a node identifier for the second peer node from which the file was retrieved; and

5 instructions for storing at the first peer node the node identifier in association with the list of one or more keywords.

40. (Original) The computer program product of claim 39

10 further comprising:

instructions for generating client rating information at the first peer node, wherein the client rating information comprises data relating one or more keywords and one or more captured node identifiers; and

15 instructions for sending the client rating information to the server.

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41. (Original) The computer program product of claim 40

wherein the client rating information comprises data relating 20 file usage statistics for the retrieved file and one or more captured node identifiers.

42. (Original) The computer program product of claim 39

further comprising:

25 instructions for capturing file usage statistics for the retrieved file; and

instructions for storing at the first peer node the file usage statistics in association with the list of one or more keywords.

43. (Original) The computer program product of claim 37 further comprising:

instructions for registering the first peer node with the  
5 server.

44. (Original) The computer program product of claim 37 further comprising:

instructions for receiving a rating module from the  
10 server; and

instructions for installing the rating module on first peer node.

45. (Original) The computer program product of claim 44  
15 wherein the rating module is installed as part of a process of registering the first peer node with the server.

46. (Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use within a distributed data processing system for facilitating a search for information, the computer program product comprising:

5 instructions for receiving at a server a rating request message comprising a list of one or more keywords from a peer node;

instructions for searching a rating database for matching keywords;

10 instructions for retrieving a list of one or more node identifiers for peer nodes in a peer-to-peer network that are associated with the matching keywords; and

instructions for sending to the peer node a rating response message comprising the list of node identifiers, 15 wherein each listed node identifier identifies a node within a peer-to-peer network from which a file has previously been retrieved in response to a peer-to-peer search that used a keyword in the list of one or more keywords.

20 47. (Original) The computer program product of claim 46 further comprising:

instructions for receiving client rating information from the peer node; and

25 instructions for indexing the client rating information from the peer node with client rating information from additional peer nodes into the rating database.

48. (Original) The computer program product of claim 46 further comprising:

instructions for initiating a financial transaction for a user or an owner of the peer node in response to accepting a 5 request to access the rating database.

49. (Original) The computer program product of claim 46 further comprising:

instructions for registering the peer node at the server.

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50. (Original) The computer program product of claim 49 further comprising:

instructions for downloading a rating module to the peer node.

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51. (Original) The computer program product of claim 49 further comprising:

instructions for identifying the registered peer node as a subscribing peer node, wherein a subscribing peer node 20 receives access to the rating database for a periodic fee.

52. (Original) The computer program product of claim 49 further comprising:

instructions for identifying the registered peer node as 25 a rating peer node, wherein a rating peer node is allowed to submit client rating information to the server.

53. (Original) The computer program product of claim 52 further comprising:

instructions for providing the rating peer node with access to the rating database for no fee.

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54. (Original) The computer program product of claim 52 further comprising:

instructions for providing the rating peer node with access to the rating database for a predetermined fee.